STEVE ROGERS CAPTAIN AMERICA® 4

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CIVIL WAR™ II

Super-Soldier. Avenger. Agent of Hydra. He is...

Steve Rogers CAPTAIN AMERICA

Steve Rogers' reality has been secretly rewritten by the sentient Cosmic Cube named Kobik, who was acting under the influence of the Red Skull. Now, a woman named Elisa Sinclair recruited him and his mother to the villainous organization known as Hydra when Steve was a young boy, and he'll do anything for the cause...but he may not be walking the Red Skull's party line.

The Red Skull ordered Steve Rogers to kill Dr. Erik Selvig, the undercover Hydra agent who helped raise Kobik and designed S.H.I.E.L.D.'s reality-bending super-prison, Pleasant Hill. But Steve seems to have his own agenda for the Cosmic Cube expert...

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MANHATTAN.
LOWER EAST SIDE.
1926.

WHERE ARE GOING?

I *TOLD* YOU, SWEETHEART-- IT'S A *SURPRISE*... YOU *LOVE* SURPRISES--

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND--

--WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO SEE *MS. SINCLAIR.* SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO BRING ME SOMETHING!

WELL-- MAYBE SOME *OTHER TIME,* STEVEN--

BUT WHY CAN'T WE GO SEE HER *BEFORE* WE GO ON OUR TRIP?

BECAUSE WE CAN'T EVER GO BACK THERE AGAIN!

W-WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED? AND WHERE'S *DADDY?*

IT'S ALL RIGHT, DARLING, I PROMISE-- EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT. I JUST NEED YOU TO--

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

HIDE.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

AH, JUST-- JUST A MOMENT!

SARAH? SARAH, IT'S ME, ***ELISA.*** CAN YOU OPEN THE DOOR, PLEASE?

Y-YES, YES OF COURSE, ONE SECOND--

OH, ***THERE*** SHE IS, GENTLEMEN, YOU WERE RIGHT! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

S-SORRY?

I ASKED THESE MEN TO COME ALONG IN CASE THERE WAS ***TROUBLE***-- IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO MISS A MEETING, AFTER ALL.

OH--OH, YES! THE ***MEETING!*** I'M SO SORRY, I--I JUST-- ALL THE CHORES, I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN.

MM. OF COURSE, HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, DEAR--

--AND YOU DO LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN QUITE ***BUSY.***

I-IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ***NEED,*** ELISA? I WAS JUST ABOUT TO--

YOU KNOW, A TEA WOULD BE LOVELY, ACTUALLY--

IT WOULD BE ***NICE*** TO SIT AND CHAT, WOULDN'T IT?

"WE HAVE SO MUCH TO DISCUSS, YOU AND I."

TODAY.

I KNOW YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS. AND I--

--I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME... RESERVATIONS.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL, AFTER ALL--AND WHAT YOU DO KNOW IS NEARLY ALL A LIE.

AND BRINGING YOU HERE--IT COMES AT CONSIDERABLE RISK. TO BOTH OF US.

BUT IN MY EXPERIENCE, NOTHING WORTH-WHILE EVER DID COME EASY.

ALL YOU CAN DO IS TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS, AND DO WHAT YOU KNOW TO BE RIGHT.

IN READING YOUR FILE, I FELT LIKE YOU WERE A PERSON WHO COULD UNDERSTAND THAT.

SO I'M HOPING THAT YOU'LL ACCEPT THE OFFER I'M GOING TO MAKE WITH AN OPEN MIND. BECAUSE I CAN'T DO THIS ***WITHOUT*** YOU--

--DOCTOR SELVIG.

I--I STILL DON'T **UNDERSTAND,** CAPTAIN--THE SUPREME LEADER--

THE RED SKULL ORDERED YOU TO BE **KILLED,** DOCTOR. HE BELIEVES YOU TO BE A LIABILITY AND A FAILURE.

I HAPPEN TO **DISAGREE.**

AND I THINK YOU AND I ARE GOING TO DO SOME **GREAT THINGS.**

TOGETHER, WE ARE GOING TO RESTORE THE GLORY OF HYDRA, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

NOW, LIKE I SAID, I UNDERSTAND YOU MAY HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS. SO, I WANTED TO OFFER YOU SOMETHING. A **GESTURE,** I GUESS--

--THIS **LAB.** SECURING IT WASN'T EASY. IN FACT--

"--IT CAME AT A CONSIDERABLE PRICE."

EARLIER.

THAT'S IT, MY SUPER-APES... JUST A FEW MORE HOURS AND WE'LL HAVE THE NEXT PHASE COMPLETED. I KNOW THE WORK IS HARD, BUT SOON IT WILL ALL BE WORTH IT--

FOR NOW, WE TOIL--WE TOIL TOGETHER, AND WE--

AHH, THAT'S PERFECT, JUST A BIT LOWER NOW...SO MUCH TENSION--I SUPPOSE IT'S THE STRESS...

WELL, IF IT'S THIS PROJECT THAT'S PUTTING PRESSURE ON YOU--

--I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.

CAPTAIN AMERICA...

YOU DON'T SEEM TOO SURPRISED TO SEE ME, ***GHOST.***

HRRM. WOULD THAT I WERE, CAPTAIN. BUT I SUPPOSE IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE CAPITALIST WARMONGERS AT ***S.H.I.E.L.D.*** LEARNED OF MY WORK--

--AND SENT THEIR MOST DUTIFUL SERVANT TO STOP ME.

APES! ATTACK! PROTECT THE ***RED GHOST!*** PROTECT ALL WE HAVE BUILT!

DEFEND YOUR MASTER, MY DARLINGS-- DEFEND ME WITH YOUR LIVES--

I WOULDN'T DO THAT, GHOST--IT'S A DEAD END.

IGNORANT WARMONGER-- WALLS ARE NO OBSTACLE FOR--

AYYYEERGHH!

I TRIED TO WARN YOU.

HHH-- HH--MY LEG-- MY ARM--WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?*

IT'S ALL RIGHT--

--I ONLY NEED THE *ONE.*

SECURE ACCESS REQUEST ACCEPTED.

PROJECT ONICEF, CURRENT STATUS: READY FOR DEPLOYMENT.

THIS IS... INCREDIBLE WORK, DOCTOR KRAGOFF. THE KIND OF WORK THAT DEFINES A LIFE. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE.

Y-YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO THAT...

I ***KNOW*** THAT. AND UNDERSTAND, I WOULDN'T TAKE IT IF IT WEREN'T A MATTER OF ***NECESSITY.***

NECESSITY? HH--YOU IMPERIALIST SWINE--YOU ARE ALL THE SAME. YOU PREACH YOUR HIGH-MINDED IDEALS, AND THEN YOU ATTACK ME? YOU KILL MY CHILDREN--

--MY CHILDREN!

AND ***WHY?!*** TO SATE YOUR ***GREED.*** YOUR LUST FOR ***POWER.*** SAME AS IT EVER WAS.

I WAS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT-- ***HISTORIC!*** I WAS TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD A ***BETTER PLACE!***

AND IT WILL BE. BECAUSE OF ***YOU.*** THANK YOU FOR THAT.

HH--WHAT DOES IT MATTER? YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED. GO, THEN.

...I'M SORRY, IVAN--

--I ALSO NEED YOUR ***SILENCE.***

NOW.

THE LAB SHOULD HAVE EVERYTHING YOU REQUIRE, BUT JUST LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ***SPECIAL*** REQUESTS. THERE'S AN ADJACENT LIVING QUARTERS.

YOU'LL HAVE TO BE SEQUESTERED HERE, FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY-- I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THERE'S A LOT OF INTERESTING NEW TECHNOLOGY ALREADY IN THE WORKS HERE--THINGS I'D VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOU TAKING A LOOK AT--

--AND OTHERS I'M GOING TO NEED TO ***RESTRICT*** YOU FROM FOR THE TIME BEING, I'M AFRAID.

BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS, THERE ARE SOME TOOLS HERE TO HELP US KEEP OUR ENEMY AT BAY.

OUR ENEMY-- YOU MEAN ***S.H.I.E.L.D.?***

NO. S.H.I.E.L.D. WON'T BE THE PROBLEM--

"--THEY'RE ALREADY DESTROYING THEMSELVES."

--DIRECTOR HILL?

CONFERENCE ROOM

THE COUNCIL IS READY TO SEE YOU, MA'AM.

OH, ARE THEY NOW? GUESS SOMEONE FINALLY FIGURED OUT HOW TO RESET THE ROUTER?

I WOULDN'T KNOW, MA'AM.

FERENCE ROOM

ET TU, GUY WHOSE NAME I CAN'T REMEMBER.

IT'S JEFF, MA'AM.

WELL, HELLO EVERYONE--NO, NO--NO NEED TO GET UP--I'D SHAKE YOUR HANDS BUT YOU'RE ALL HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS.

AND SPEAKING OF--

--RENDELL, HOW IS ASPEN? HITTING THE SLOPES, OR ARE YOU LEAVING IT UP TO THAT GIRL YOU'RE WITH, THE ONE THAT'S A THIRD YOUR AGE? SPEAKING ***GENEROUSLY.***

OR HOW ABOUT ***YOU,*** WENTZ? YOU APPLYING SUNSCREEN REGULARLY DOWN IN BELIZE?

MAN, THE LIVES YOU ALL LEAD. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A GIRL JEALOUS.

MARIA, THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH!

YOU ARE HERE FOR A PRELIMINARY MEETING REGARDING YOUR UPCOMING TRIBUNAL FOR ETHICS AND CONDUCT VIOLATIONS--

WELL, SEE, THAT'S JUST THE THING. ***I'M*** HERE. AND YOU'RE ***NOT.*** SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I'M NOT TERRIBLY INTERESTED IN HAVING MY JOB PERFORMANCE EVALUATED BY A BUNCH OF BUREAUCRATS--

--BUREAUCRATS I INSTALLED IN THESE POSITIONS, BY THE WAY--

--WHO NOW CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO GET IN THEIR PRIVATE JETS AND FLY THEMSELVES BACK HERE TO STAB ME IN THE BACK. INSTEAD I GET THE TUPAC OF COACHELLA 2012.

WELL, HOW ABOUT ME?

I SHOWED UP.

EVEN FLEW *ECONOMY*-- DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP.

EVERETT? EVERETT *ROSS?*

HEYA, MARIA. GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

I'LL LIE AND SAY LIKEWISE. WHO DID I PISS OFF IN *WAKANDA* TO DESERVE THIS HONOR?

WELL, THAT'S A QUESTION THAT DOESN'T NEED AN ANSWER, ISN'T IT? BUT NO--

I'M ACTUALLY HERE OF MY OWN ACCORD.

I, UH, I READ THE FILE. IT WAS A LOT TO READ, BUT AGAIN, ECONOMY FLIGHT, NO SLEEP. YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY BUSY--

WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DOOMSDAY EVENTS.

MM. INDEED-- A FEW OF THEM YOU YOURSELF NEARLY CAUSED.

"THE *KOBIK INITIATIVE.* WIELDING THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE--A SENTIENT *COSMIC CUBE*--IN A MANNER SO RECKLESS IT'S A MIRACLE WE EVEN STILL HAVE A UNIVERSE AT ALL.

"PLEASANT HILL--WHERE YOU TRIED TO REWRITE THE REALITIES OF CRIMINALS USING THAT CUBE--

"--UNTIL IT CAME WITHIN A *HAIR* OF FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF BARON ZEMO DURING THE INEVITABLE REVOLT."

AND THOSE ARE JUST THE MOST ***RECENT*** EXAMPLES. I LOOK AT THIS STUFF--HOW MANY LIVES IT'S COST, HOW MUCH DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE--AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT TO SAY IN RESPONSE.

WELL, YOU COULD START WITH, *"HOW WAS A PAPER PUSHER LIKE ME EVER ALLOWED TO READ SUCH A HIGHLY CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT?"*

*HH--YOU REALLY DON'T **GET** IT, DO YOU, MARIA? THIS COUNCIL **ASKED** ME TO READ IT. THEY'VE ASKED ME TO PROSECUTE THE CASE AGAINST YOU AT THIS TRIBUNAL.*

WHEN THEY CALLED, I WASN'T SURE IF I WAS INTERESTED. BUT NOW? KNOWING WHAT I KNOW?

I AM ***VERY*** MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

ROSS, LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY--I AM GOING TO TELL YOU THE ***SAME THING*** I TOLD THESE EMBARRASSINGLY AGED DILETTANTES.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS--WHAT THE RED SKULL IS DOING RIGHT NOW, THE RESURGENCE OF HYDRA? TRUST ME--

--THERE IS A ***WAR*** COMING.

OF COURSE, "DIRECTOR"--I READ ABOUT THAT, TOO. AND I HAPPEN TO ***AGREE*** WITH YOU. THERE WILL BE A WAR. AND WE'LL NEED S.H.I.E.L.D. TO BE AT ITS STRONGEST TO FIGHT IT--

"--BUT ***YOU*** WON'T BE THE ONE LEADING IT."

--AND SO I CALL UPON THIS COMMITTEE TO PASS THE S.H.I.E.L.D. ACT IMMEDIATELY. HELP US TAKE THE FIGHT TO HYDRA, BEFORE MORE INNOCENT LIVES ARE LOST.

WASHINGTON, D.C. SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEARING.

THANK YOU FOR THAT STATEMENT, COMMANDER CARTER. I THINK I SPEAK FOR ***EVERYONE*** ON THIS PANEL IN SAYING WE AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH YOUR SENTIMENTS. HOWEVER--

--WE DO HAVE MANY CONCERNS WITH THIS BILL AS IT STANDS.

INDEED. I'M ALL IN FOR FIGHTING **HYDRA,** BUT LOOKING AT THE FINE PRINT HERE-- THE INCREASE IN THE SURVEILLANCE STATE **ALONE--**

EXACTLY. WARRANTLESS WIRETAPPING, DATA SCREENING, AGGRESSIVE PROFILING--THIS IS THE NSA ON **STEROIDS.**

I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECTIONS REGARDING **MARTIAL LAW**--UNDER SOME INTERPRETATIONS, THIS COULD BE VIEWED AS SIGNING OVER OUR MILITARY POWERS TO **S.H.I.E.L.D.--**

THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS A **SOVEREIGN NATION.** WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO HAND OVER OUR WEAPONS TO SOME INTERNATIONALIST BODY WITH ITS **OWN** AGENDA.

SENATORS, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS. AND I AGREE WITH YOU--THIS BILL IS UNPRECEDENTED.

BUT SO IS THE THREAT WE FACE. THIS NEW HYDRA IS TARGETING CIVILIANS AND OUR MOST INSECURE TARGETS. THEY SEEK TO CREATE A CULTURE OF **FEAR** AND **CHAOS** THAT WE **CANNOT** ALLOW TO THRIVE.

THIS IS AN ENEMY THAT DOESN'T JUST SEEK TO WIPE US FROM EXISTENCE, THEY SEEK TO DO SO BY DESTROYING THE VERY CORE OF OUR SOCIETY. AND IT IS **WORKING.** THEY ARE GROWING IN POWER AND REACH EVERY DAY.

THE POINT IS, I DON'T ENVY THE CHOICE YOU HAVE TO MAKE.

HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO REMIND THIS COMMITTEE THAT NONE OTHER THAN **CAPTAIN AMERICA**--WHO PRIDES HIMSELF ON TRYING TO STAY ABOVE POLITICS AND LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS--HAS PERSONALLY ENDORSED THIS BILL.

IN FACT, THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, HE SHOWED UP TO ADDRESS THIS COMMITTEE **IN THE FLESH.** HE ASKED FOR YOUR HELP. AND **TRUST** ME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PANEL--

--I DON'T THINK YOU WANT HIM TO HAVE TO COME BACK.

"THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T FEAR **ANY** OF THESE SELF-APPOINTED 'HEROES'--"

--THESE SUPPOSED ***PROTECTORS OF HUMANITY*** WHO USUALLY END UP BEING ITS GREATEST THREAT.

THEIR DISTRUST OF EACH OTHER WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DISTRACT THEM. IT ***ALWAYS*** IS. IF I KNOW THEM--

"--THEY'LL BE TOO BUSY FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS."

THEN IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

OF COURSE, IF YOU HAVE IT ALL IN HAND, WHY RISK ***EVERYTHING*** TO SPARE ***ME?*** NOT THAT I'M NOT ***GRATEFUL,*** OF COURSE--

I SAID I DIDN'T FEAR ***THEM***--NOT THAT I DON'T FEAR ***ANYTHING.***

WE'RE ALL VICTIMS OF TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE. RIGHT NOW, NO ONE KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT MY...***ALLEGIANCES***. BUT THERE ARE LOOSE ENDS. THREADS THAT, IF PULLED--

"--COULD UNDO EVERYTHING."

S.H.I.E.L.D. MEDICAL BAY.

AND MY SISTER--WELL, YOU REMEMBER HER--SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN ***DIFFICULT,*** NOT THAT THAT MAKES WHAT MOM DID ***OKAY.***

AT ANY RATE, THE POINT IS, THANKSGIVING IS GONNA BE CRAZY ***AWKWARD***. I'M JUST GONNA TRY TO KEEP MY HEAD DOWN, BEEN WORKING WELL FOR DAD FOR THIRTY YEARS NOW--

KNOCK KNOCK--

HEY, CATHY, AM I, UH... INTERRUPTING?

I'M NOT CRAZY, RICK.

I DIDN'T THINK--

THE DOCTOR SAID THIS CAN HELP. IF YOU ***TALK*** TO THEM.

THAT... MAKES SENSE. SO NO--?

NO CHANGE. JACK HASN'T RESPONDED TO ***ANYTHING.*** AND THEY DON'T--WITH HIS WHOLE ENHANCED PHYSIOLOGY--THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO PROCEED WITH TREATMENT.

ALL WE CAN DO IS SIT HERE AND WAIT.

WELL, THAT'S WHY I'M ***HERE,*** ACTUALLY--

RICK, IF YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME TO GO GET SOME REST--

NO, NO, I'VE SEEN THE BRUISING AND MINOR FRACTURES OF THE S.H.I.E.L.D. GUYS WHO HAVE TRIED TO GET YOU TO LEAVE. I ONLY HAVE A ***QUESTION*** FOR YOU--

--HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH A LITTLE SHOW CALLED ***THE BLACKLIST?***

SORRY?

JAMES SPADER IN TOP FORM THROUGHOUT. RAYMOND REDDINGTON IS THIS ***SUPER-CRIMINAL GUY*** WHO TURNS HIMSELF IN TO THE FBI AND OFFERS TO HELP BRING DOWN EVERYONE HE EVER WORKED WITH, BUT HE'LL ONLY TALK TO ***ONE AGENT--***

WELL, I DON'T WANNA ***SPOIL*** IT FOR YOU.

POINT IS, IT'S A NETWORK SHOW, SO A LOT OF EPISODES. I FIGURE IT'S THE PERFECT BINGE-VIEW WHILE WE SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR SOME GOOD NEWS.

AND JACK CAN WATCH, TOO. IT'S REALLY THE ***DIALOGUE*** THAT MAKES THE WHOLE THING SING. AGAIN, SPADER.

I ALSO BROUGHT ***SNACKS.***

POTATOES

MARKET

-SOB-

POTATOES

OR WE COULD GO WITH A ***COMEDY.*** I HEAR THE NEW ***KIMMY SCHMIDT*** IS SOLID...

I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST--

--I KEEP THINKING BACK TO THAT NIGHT HE FELL OUT OF THE PLANE. I SHOULD'VE ***STOPPED*** HIM! HE WAS SO @#$@ STUPID, SO ***IMPETUOUS!*** HE ***COUNTED*** ON ME TO REIN HIM IN, AND I JUST--

WE WERE BOTH SO ***EXCITED*** TO BE BACK OUT IN THE FIELD, I THOUGHT--

--I THOUGHT WE WERE FINALLY GONNA GET A BREAK... NOTHING COULD STOP US.

HEY...IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN'T ***THINK*** LIKE THAT. YOU GOTTA LOOK AHEAD. BE STRONG FOR HIM ***NOW,*** YOU KNOW? DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE PAST--

"--NOTHING ABOUT IT ***EVER*** MAKES SENSE."

BAGALIA.

JUST OVER HERE-- WATCH YOUR STEP--

THANK GOD I WAS DOWN AT ***THE HOLE***--THING PLOWED RIGHT THROUGH THE WHOLE ***MASTER SUITE.*** EVEN TOOK OUT THE ***HOT TUB.*** AND I JUST WON THIS PLACE, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

LIFE'S TOUGH, SCARECROW. APPRECIATE YOU LETTING US GET A LOOK, THOUGH.

EH, YOU'RE THE ***SHERIFF,*** RIGHT? I GUESS EVEN A TOWN WITHOUT LAWS HAS GOTTA HAVE SOME...YOU KNOW, LAW?

IT'S MORE OF AN ***HONORARY*** THING. ***TWO BODIES?***

YEP. THAT ONE IS ***DOCTOR ERIK SELVIG,*** APPARENTLY--BIG FANCY ***COSMIC CUBE*** EXPERT. AND THAT BURNT S'MORE OVER THERE--

--IS THE LATE, GREAT ***BARON ZEMO.***

HMPH. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I THINK HE MIGHT BE PRETTIER NOW.

WELL, GLASS HOUSES. I FIGURE EVEN WITH THE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, BIG-NAME DEATH LIKE THAT HAS TO HELP MY ***RESALE*** VALUE, THOUGH, RIGHT?

SECURITY FOOTAGE SHOWS ROGERS LEAPING OUT ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS BEFORE THE CRASH.

YEAH-- THAT GUY'S REALLY MASTERED THE ART OF JUMPING OFF ROCKETS BEFORE IMPACT. NOT REALLY A ***SURPRISE,*** IS IT?

PROBABLY NOT. EVEN STILL...

TESSIE, BE A DEAR AND TEAR THROUGH THAT RUBBLE FOR ME, YEAH? I WANNA GET ME A LOOK AT THE CRUISER CONTROLS--

SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT HERE.

KOBIK.

OF COURSE-- THAT'S WHY YOU RESCUED ME. IT'S HOW WE MET IN THE FIRST PLACE--

THERE'S A SENTIENT COSMIC CUBE OUT THERE--ONE WHO CAN REVEAL YOUR SECRET AT ANY MOMENT.

WHO BETTER TO HELP YOU FIND HER THAN THE MAN WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN?

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, DOCTOR. WE HAVE TO FIND THE GIRL--SO MUCH OF WHAT WE NEED TO DO WILL DEPEND ON THAT.

WELL, YES-- BUT HOWEVER TRUE THAT MAY BE, I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE SHE IS ***NOW***--PROBABLY HALF A UNIVERSE AWAY...

YOU ***MISUNDERSTAND*** ME, DOCTOR--

I ALREADY KNOW WHERE KOBIK IS...

EARTH ORBIT.

THUNDERBOLTS, STAY CLOSE-- TRAIN YOUR FIRE ON THE LEADERS!

HOW ABOUT WE TRAIN OUR FIRE ON ***OUR*** LEADER? THIS IS A STUPID PLAN, BUCKY. YOUR "MAN ON THE WALL" SOURCES TELL YOU A WHOLE ***ALIEN ARMY*** IS HEADED FOR EARTH--

--AND YOU SEND US TO STOP IT? THERE'S ***FIVE*** OF US, GENIUS!

HATE TO SAY IT, BUT MOONSTONE'S RIGHT. THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM--

AND THESE THINGS ARE BLOODTHIRSTY KILLERS!

NUH-UH, THEY'RE JUST ***SCARED***--THEY'RE ALL REALLY FAR FROM WHERE THEY LIVE. THEY DON'T ***LIKE*** IT HERE!

I CAN MAKE IT BETTER!

WELL, THAT WAS ***ANTICLIMACTIC.***

KOBIK-- WHAT DID YOU DO?

I SENT THEM HOME! NOW THEY'RE REAL HAPPY AGAIN--WE COULD BE, TOO, YOU KNOW--

--IT'S EASY!

NO. NO, NO, NO...

SHE SENT US ***BACK.*** UNBELIEVABLE. IS THIS SERIOUSLY--

PLEASANT HILL! THE LITTLE MONSTER BROUGHT US BACK TO PLEASANT HILL!

I'M NOT GONNA BE LOCKED UP IN THIS PRISON AGAIN, YOU HEAR ME?! I AM NOT SOME BUZZ LIGHTYEAR DOLL FOR YOU TO PULL IN AND OUT OF THE TOY CHEST WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT!

FIXER-- EASY--

PLUS SIDE, I HAVE BEEN CRAVING THOSE DINER MILKSHAKES SINCE THE PLACE GOT BLOWN UP.

DUDE, I'M IN.

KOBIK--

I'M SORRY! I JUST--

I GET HOMESICK SOMETIMES, TOO.

EVERYBODY WAS HAPPY HERE...

I KNOW. BUT THIS ISN'T YOUR HOME ANY MORE, YOU UNDERSTAND? WHY DON'T YOU SHOW US WHERE WE LIVE NOW?

YOU MEAN HERE?

-SIGH- YEAH. RIGHT HERE.

OH, THANK GOD. I DID NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO BAKING CUPCAKES.

ONE HOUR. THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED. FOOD CRAVINGS ARE A REAL THING.

YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS, BARNES. BEFORE I DO.

AND I'M EAGER, TRUST ME.

I DID SOMETHING **WRONG** DIDN'T I?

NO--I MEAN, ***MAYBE.*** LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GO UP TO YOUR ROOM?

LET ME TAKE CARE OF A LITTLE WORK, AND THEN WE CAN PLAY **MARIO** FOR A LITTLE BIT, YEAH?

YAAY! HURRY HURRY HURRY!

INCOMING CALL--

HUH? CALL FROM **WHO?**

CAPTAIN STEVE ROGERS--

FINALLY. PUT HIM THROUGH-- NOW--

STEVE?

STEVE? YOU THERE?

STEVE, IT'S **ME, BUCKY,** COME IN--

--BUCKY-- NEED TO-- WHERE--

I'M SORRY, THE CALL SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TERMINATED.

WHAT THE HELL? THAT'S THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK...

"SO FAR, MY EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT HAVE BEEN...LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL--

"--BUT THERE ARE *OTHER* METHODS OF REACHING OUT."

AVRIL...

AVRIL, I NEED YOU TO STAY CALM.

W-WENDELL? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

YOU TAPPED INTO THE ***COSMIC AWARENESS***--IT'S A SORT OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIVERSE, AN ABILITY TO SEE AND FEEL EVERYTHING CONTAINED WITHIN IT--

--INCLUDING THREATS.

SO...HOW DO I TURN IT OFF? I WANNA TURN IT OFF NOW.

YOU JUST HAVE TO RELAX--DEEP BREATHS, FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND YOU--

LET IT GROUND YOU.

THAT WAS--

TERRIFYING. WHAT YOU SAW WHILE YOU WERE TAPPING INTO IT MUST'VE BEEN SERIOUS ENOUGH THAT THE BANDS KICKED ON INSTINCTIVELY. WHAT WAS IT?

I CAN'T--I DON'T REMEMBER...

THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL ***EITHER***. IT TAKES TIME TO LEARN HOW TO HOLD ONTO THESE THINGS. WITH THE RIGHT TRAINING YOU'LL GET IT.

YEAH, GREAT. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU SURE YOU DON'T JUST WANT THESE THINGS BACK? THE UNIVERSE COULD MAYBE USE A PROTECTOR THAT DOESN'T HAVE ***TRAINING WHEELS*** ON.

BE ***PATIENT,*** AVRIL--YOU THINK I DIDN'T MAKE SOME MISTAKES WHEN I PUT THEM ON THE FIRST TIME? YOU'RE THE WIELDER OF THE ***QUANTUM BANDS***--

--YOU'RE ***QUASAR*** NOW.

"SO, YES, EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY. BUT AGAIN, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE--

"--I'M NOT THE **ONLY** ONE LOOKING FOR KOBIK."

WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS MY CUBE?!

MAKE NO MISTAKE-- THERE ARE THREATS. **GREAT** ONES, IN FACT.

THE WALLS ARE CLOSING IN ON US--AND WE ARE BESET BY DANGER ON ALL SIDES.

BUT I HAVE FAITH.

WE HAVE TO SUCCEED. FAILURE IS **NOT** AN OPTION. AFTER ALL, THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WORKING TOWARDS **EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE--**

"--EVER SINCE I WAS A *LITTLE BOY.*"

I *KNOW* YOU DID IT, ELISA--I KNOW YOU *KILLED JOSEPH!*

NOW, SARAH--THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE *ABSURD*--I HEARD THE POOR SOUL WAS INEBRIATED AGAIN AND TOOK A TUMBLE OFF THE BRIDGE--HOW AM I TO BLAME FOR THAT?

YOU'RE *LYING!* THERE WERE WITNESSES--THEY SAID HE WAS *ATTACKED*--THEY SAID *YOU* WERE WITH THE MEN WHO DID IT!

PEOPLE LOVE TO TELL *STORIES.* ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY INVOLVE *DEATH.*

HE WAS MY *HUSBAND,* ELISA!

A HUSBAND THAT BEAT YOU BLACK-AND-BLUE JUST *DAYS* AGO.

YOU HAD NO *RIGHT!*

I'M NOT GOING *ANYWHERE* WITH YOU!

-*SIGH*- SARAH, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY IN AN EMOTIONAL STATE. AND WHO CAN *BLAME* YOU? PERHAPS YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME, TO THE CENTER, WHERE WE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU--

NONSENSE. TIMES LIKE THESE ARE WHEN THE COLLECTIVE IS NEEDED THE *MOST.* NOW, WHERE IS *STEVEN?* WE'LL NEED TO BRING HIM AS WELL, OBVIOUSLY--

NO! YOU *STAY AWAY FROM HIM! DO YOU HEAR ME, ELISA--*

KRACK

THUD

YOU IDIOT! WHY DID YOU--

SHE LUNGED AT YOU, MA'AM--

WHAT WAS SHE GOING TO DO TO ME?!

-SIGH- THIS IS TERRIBLE. NOT AT ALL WHAT I WANTED.

I'M SORRY, MA'AM.

WELL? GET HER OUT OF HERE, THEN. AND YOU--

--FIND THE BOY.

HEY!

GOT YA!

MS. SINCLAIR, I GOT HIM!

EASY! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T **HURT** HIM, YOU BRUTE--

--I HAVE SUCH GRAND PLANS FOR THIS ONE, AFTER ALL...

THIS WORLD IS IN DIRE NEED OF *SAVING*, DOCTOR SELVIG.

I LOOK AROUND AT THE CORRUPTION, THE WEAKNESS, THE FEAR--AND OF COURSE I HAVE MY MOMENTS OF DOUBT. I WONDER IF THINGS ARE TOO FAR GONE.

BUT THIS IS A WAR WE HAVE TO *WIN*. THIS IS A MOMENT WE HAVE TO BE WORTHY OF.

WE HAVE A DESTINY--

"--A FUTURE THAT HAS BEEN FORETOLD."

COLUMBUS.
WOODS-N-WATERS CAMPGROUNDS.

OH, GOD!

STOP!

WHY WON'T IT STOP?

ULYSSES?

I BELIEVE WE WILL SEE THE GLORY OF HYDRA RESTORED.

I BELIEVE WE WILL SEE THIS CASTLE OF LIES COLLAPSE IN ON ITSELF, AND PEOPLE WILL KNOW WHAT PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH IS ONCE AGAIN.

I BELIEVE THAT WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING STANDING IN OUR WAY.

SOMETHING THAT HAS TO BE DEALT WITH ***BEFORE*** ANYTHING ELSE.

"THE ***TRUE*** HYDRA ISN'T A COLLECTION OF MARAUDING THUGS, PREACHING ***BLIND HATRED*** AND ***INTOLERANCE.***

"IT ISN'T CONQUEST FOR CONQUEST'S SAKE.

"AND IT CERTAINLY WASN'T BUILT TO GLORIFY ***ONE MAN.***"

THAT IS WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP. YOU UNDERSTAND THE ***TRUTH*** ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO.

AND SO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IS AT ***STAKE***. THERE IS A SICKNESS INFECTING HYDRA, AND IT MUST BE PURIFIED BEFORE IT CAN ***RISE UP*** AGAIN.

THIS IS WHY I NEED YOU, ERIK--

"--I NEED YOU TO HELP ME KILL THE RED SKULL."

NEXT